

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently presented) A method, executed in a control node, for controlling bandwidth of communication from a station to a destination module in time slots assigned by said control node that recur at a given rate where a preselected number of blocks of time slots form a frame, where said station sends packets that carry a voice signal in a channel specified by said control node, comprising the steps of:

- a) first ascertaining whether said station is in a relative_silence period;
- b) when said step of first ascertaining concludes that said station is in said relative silence period, sending a control message to said station that reduces bandwidth of said channel, which control message specifies a slot in a subset of the blocks of a frame for transmission of packets belonging to said channel that is not less than a quarter of said number of blocks that form said frame;
- c) second ascertaining whether said station is in an active period;
- d) when said step of second ascertaining determines that said station is in an active period, determining whether there is access capacity that can be assigned to said station; and
- e) sending a control message to said station that increases said bandwidth of said channel when said step of determining concludes that there is excess capacity that can be assigned to said station.

Delete claims 2-25.